

D. New Claims

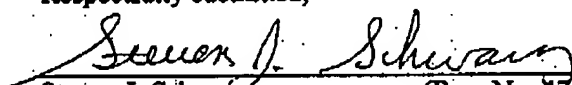
New dependent claims 43-44 are presented for the Examiner's review and consideration. The new claims respectively depend from independent claims 40 and 33, and for at least reasons stated above should be allowed over the references of Watson and Dunken cited by the Examiner. More specifically, each claims recites that the opening of the container top is substantially centrally located. Watson does not disclose a centrally located opening on the top of its container. Instead Watson states that at the top 16 there is provided a plurality of raised portions or ribs 43, 45, and 47. (Watson, 3:12-14, FIG. 1). Positioned centrally with regard to the longitudinal axis of each rib are respective raised portions or bosses 48, 50, 52. (*Id.*, 3:15-17). These bosses serve to aid in the stacking of the container 10 through their engagement with respective recesses 54, 56, and 58 located in legs or extensions 60, 62 and 64 of the pallet 40. (*Id.*, 3:18-21, FIG. 10). To modify the container of Watson, so as to substantially centrally locate an opening on top would change the principle of operation of Watson. The new claims 43-44 are fully supported by the disclosure as filed. (See Specification as filed, Figure 18).

II. Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and remarks, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider this application with a view towards allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney (202) 496-4475, if a telephone call could help resolve any remaining items.

Respectfully submitted,

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